WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing system having a host
computer capable of communicatively connecting an image
5 input-output device, the image processing system
comprising:

a color space conversion unit for converting
color space of an image which is an input-output target
of the image input-output device into a predetermined
10 color space;

a resolution conversion unit for converting
resolution of the image which is the input-output
target of the image input-output device into a
predetermined resolution;

15 a determination unit for determining the extent
of a match between a particular image and a signal of
an image converted into said predetermined color space
and predetermined resolution; and

an image processing control unit for controlling
20 processing of said image based on the extent of the
match as determined by the determination unit,

the color space conversion unit, the resolution
conversion unit, the determination unit and the image
processing control unit being run on the host computer
25 operating software (OS).

2. The image processing system according to

claim 1, wherein the image processing control unit generates a warning if the extent of the match meets or exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

5   3. The image processing system according to claim 2, further comprising:
a dialog box display unit for displaying a dialog box used for inputting instructions as to whether or not to continue with processing if the extent of the
10   match meets or exceeds the predetermined threshold value;
a record archiving unit for archiving the operating record if an instruction is given to continue with processing in response to said dialog box; and
15   a discontinuance unit for discarding the image if an instruction is given to discontinue with processing in response to said dialog box.

4. The image processing system according to
20   claim 1, wherein the particular image is an original image whose reproduction is prohibited.

5. The image processing system according to claim 1, further comprising: a driver for the image
25   input-output device that runs on the host computer's software.

6. The image processing system according to claim 5, wherein the color space conversion unit and the resolution conversion unit convert image signals output from said driver.

7. The image processing system according to claim 6, wherein said image input-output device either a scanner that scans an original image or a printer that outputs an image onto a recording medium.

8. A control method for an image processing system having a host computer capable of communicatively connecting an image input-output device, the control method comprising:

a color space conversion step for converting color space of an image which is an input-output target of the image input-output device into a predetermined color space;

a resolution conversion step for converting resolution of the image which is the input-output target of the image input-output device into a predetermined resolution;

a determination step for determining the extent of a match between a particular image and a signal of an image converted into said predetermined color space and said predetermined resolution; and

an image processing control step for controlling

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processing of said image based on the extent of the match as determined in the determination step,

the color space conversion step, the resolution conversion step, the determination step and the image

5   processing control step being executed by the host computer operating software (OS).

9.   The control method according to claim 8, wherein a warning is generated at the image processing

10   control step if the extent of the match meets or exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

10.   The control method according to claim 9, further comprising:

15   a dialog box display unit for displaying a dialog box used for inputting instructions as to whether or not to continue with processing if the extent of the match meets or exceeds the predetermined threshold value;

20   a record archiving unit for archiving the operating record if an instruction is given to continue with processing in response to said dialog box; and

a discontinuance unit for discarding the image if an instruction is given to discontinue with processing

25   in response to said dialog box.

11.   A computer-executable software control

program for causing a computer capable of communicatively connecting to an image input-output device to function as an image processing system, the control program comprising program code for:

5   a color space conversion step for converting color space of an image which is an input-output target of the image input-output device into a predetermined color space;

a resolution conversion step for converting
10   resolution of the image which is the input-output target of the image input-output device into a predetermined resolution;

a determination step for determining the extent of a match between a particular image and a signal of
15   an image converted into said predetermined color space and said predetermined resolution; and

an image processing control step for controlling processing of said image based on the extent of the match as determined in the determination step,

20   the color space conversion step, the resolution conversion step, the determination step and the image processing control step being executed by run on the host computer operating software (OS).

25   12. The control program according to claim 11, wherein, a warning is generated at the determination step if the extent of the match meets or exceeds a

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predetermined threshold value.

13. The control program according to claim 12, wherein the determination step further comprises:

5   a dialog box display step of displaying a dialog box used for inputting instructions as to whether or not to continue with processing if the extent of the match meets or exceeds the predetermined threshold value;

10   a record archiving step of archiving an operating record if an instruction is given to continue with processing in response to said dialog box; and

a discontinuance step of discarding the image if an instruction is given to discontinue with processing 15 in response to said dialog box.

14. A computer-readable medium having a computer-executable software control program stored thereon, the control program causing a computer capable 20 of communicatively connecting to an image input-output device to function as an image processing system, the control program comprising program code for:

a color space conversion step for converting color space of an image which is an input-output target 25 of the image input-output device into a predetermined color space;

a resolution conversion step for converting

resolution of the image which is the input-output

target of the image input-output device into a

predetermined resolution;

a determination step for determining the extent

5 of a match between a particular image and a signal of

an image converted into said predetermined color space

and said predetermined resolution; and

an image processing control step for controlling

processing of said image based on the extent of the

10 match as determined in the determination step,

the color space conversion step, the resolution

conversion step, the determination step and the image

processing control step being executed by run on the

host computer operating software (OS).

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